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## GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, DC 20408



December 12, 1978

MEMO

MEMO Staff Information Memo - CIA #1  
Systematic Review for declassification of  
unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO and other  
field intelligence reports dated after  
December 31, 1945.

MEMDA, MEMDG

1. The Director of Central Intelligence has determined that unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO, and other series of field intelligence reports require continued protection beyond twenty years in the interest of national security. (Letter from Stansfield Turner to James B. Rhoads, 16 October 1978.) This determination is applicable to all such reports dated after December 31, 1945, originated by the Strategic Services Unit (SSU) of the War Department, the Central Intelligence Group (CIG) and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Excepted from this determination are those reports in the custody of NARS already made available to researchers in response to earlier reviews, mandatory reviews under E.O. 11652 and Freedom of Information Act requests. (Letter Stansfield Turner to James B. Rhoads, 1 December 1978.)

2. References to such reports on worksheets, withdrawal notices or in correspondence will cite only the SO, SODB, DB, or OO number and not any other field station identification numbers and the date of the report.

3. The Director of Central Intelligence requests that we refrain from marking a document with the next review date in accordance with E.O. 12065 on these SSU, CIG, and CIA reports over 20 years of age until such time as he has processed a CIA waiver request to extend the period between reviews for certain categories of information through the Information Security Oversight Office. If it is absolutely necessary to mark a document with a date for next review, a date ten years later, is acceptable. The stamp marking in such cases should appear as follows:

EXEMPT from declassification  
per E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-4  
Re-review on (enter date 10 years later)

4. Requests by researchers for SO, SODB, DB, OO and other series of field intelligence reports under the mandatory review provisions of E.O. 12065 or the Freedom of Information Act will be reproduced and forwarded for review to:

Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Room 2M42, Headquarters Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20505

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5. Questions should be referred to NND, telephone 523-3165.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Edwin A. Thompson'.

EDWIN A. THOMPSON

Director

Records Declassification Division



General  
Services  
AdministrationNational Archives  
and

Records Service Washington, DC 20408

Executive Registry

78-2687/2

NOV 3 1978

DD/A Registry

78-3640/3

Honorable Stansfield Turner  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October requesting the staff of the National Archives to continue the protection beyond thirty years of all unevaluated field intelligence reports (including SO, SODB, DB, and OO). I trust that our doing so will eliminate a sizable portion of the present backlog of documents of CIA origin in the custody of the National Archives requiring review by your staff.

I am concerned, however, with any application of this policy determination to field intelligence reports which were originated by the COI and the OSS, the earliest predecessors of the CIA. You should be aware that over 700 cubic feet of the records of the Research and Analysis Branch of the OSS were reviewed between 1973 and 1976, with just a few thousand documents withheld from release. These records contain tens of thousands of unevaluated field intelligence reports which have been made available to hundreds of researchers in recent years. OSS reviewers together with especially trained members of the staff of the National Archives' Records Declassification Division have also reviewed over 2,500 cubic feet of Army intelligence files containing additional thousands of field intelligence reports originated by the OSS. These too have been made available to numerous researchers.

In the light of this, I urge that you consider the field intelligence reports of the OSS as excluded from this determination. If this is agreeable, I would propose that your policy decision be applied to such formal CIG, SSU, and CIA field intelligence reports in the National Archives of the United States as have not already been made available to researchers in response to mandatory review under E.O. 11652 and Freedom of Information Act requests.

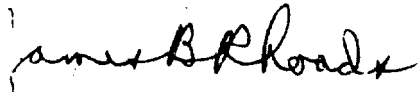
One further matter. Executive Order 11652 obliges the head of department to set a date when information determined to require continued protection beyond thirty years can be declassified. Executive Order 12065 (which becomes effective on December 1) specifies that when an Agency head determines that classification should be extended beyond thirty years, that "... a date no more than ten years later shall be set for declassification or for the next review." Clearly we will not be able to identify and mark the date you determine for automatic declassification on very many documents before December 1. I suggest, therefore, that we begin on December 1, 1978, marking the post-1945 field intelligence reports in our custody for review again ten years from the date of our initial review of the particular report. If it is

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your intention, however, to request an extension of the period between subsequent reviews from the Information Security Oversight Office for such reports we would greatly appreciate being so advised.

Your comments on these points are urgently requested. We do not feel that we can proceed until we hear further from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James B. Rhoads".

JAMES B. RHOADS  
Archivist of the United States

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Received NA-N  
OCT 19 1978

16 October 1978

*AE*

Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Service  
Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Room 111  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

*1 JAN 46*

I am informed that our respective staffs concerned with the systematic review of permanent records for declassification under Executive Order 11652 mutually recognize that the release to the public of unevaluated intelligence reports would pose serious security problems. A risk is posed by the release of a number of reports, on a specific country or subject, which in the aggregate reveal CIA interests and scope of operations during a given time frame. In the report format, items such as "Place Acquired" provide evidence of operations of the Central Intelligence Agency or its predecessor agencies in a particular country, and source descriptions, even though general, pinpoint sectors within a country in which agents may have been reporting to the Central Intelligence Agency. If a report is released to the public without appropriate deletion of classified information, it can be expected that the revelations of operations would disrupt the relations of the United States with the country concerned, with attendant risk to present operations.

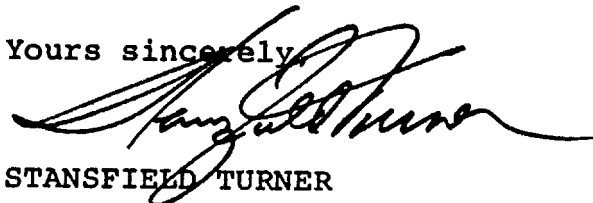
In consideration of these risks and consistent with the oral understanding reached by our respective staffs, it is my view that unevaluated intelligence reports require continued retention of classification unless sanitized to protect intelligence sources and methods and prevent any adverse impact that declassification and release of these reports could have on the foreign relations of the United States.

Accordingly, this is to advise you that pursuant to section 5(E) of Executive Order 11652 I have identified unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO, and field intelligence reports,

accessioned as permanent records to the National Archives and Records Service by other agencies, as containing information that requires continued protection beyond thirty years in the interest of national security. If these reports are subsequently requested under the Freedom of Information Act or the mandatory review provisions of the Executive order, they should be referred to this Agency for review for the sanitization of format and release of non-sensitive information.

I expect that this determination will serve to clear up the backlog of material to be reviewed pursuant to Executive Order 11652, although the matter of review pursuant to Executive Order 12065 will have to be addressed at a later date. Of course, my staff concerned with classification review stands ready to assist in any problems of procedure that may arise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stansfield Turner", written over the typed name.

STANSFIELD TURNER

78-2187/2A

Washington, D.C. 20545

1 DEC 1978

Dr. James B. Rhoads  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives and Records Service  
Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads:

Thank you for your letter dated 3 November 1978 concerning the continued protection of unevaluated intelligence reports.

I am in agreement that unevaluated intelligence reports of the COI and OSS accessioned by other agencies to the National Archives and Records Service as permanent records and which have been systematically reviewed and declassified should continue to remain in the public domain. The systematic review by CIA of remaining COI and OSS reports at the National Archives will continue until all such reports have been reviewed. Those declassified can be made available to the public and I will certify those for which continued protection is required in the interest of national security.

I further agree that unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO, and field intelligence reports, identified in my letter of 16 October 1978 as requiring continued protection in the interest of national security, should apply to such formal CIG, SSU, and CIA unevaluated intelligence reports in the custody of the National Archives and Records Service as have not already been made available to researchers in response to mandatory review under E.O. 11652 and FOIA requests. Such application would continue under Executive Order 12065 when it becomes effective on 1 December 1978.

It is recognized that E.O. 12065 requires that when an Agency head extends classification beyond 20 years, or 30 years for foreign government information, a date no more than ten years later shall be set for declassification or for the next review, unless a waiver is granted by the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office for certain categories of information. Pending the activation of the Information

Security Oversight Office and the time to process a CIA waiver request to extend the period between reviews for certain categories of information, it would be appreciated if the National Archives would refrain from marking a next review date on unevaluated SSU, CIG, and CIA reports over 20 years of age or over 30 years for foreign government information. Should it be necessary in some cases to set a date for next review, a 10-year period is, of course, acceptable.

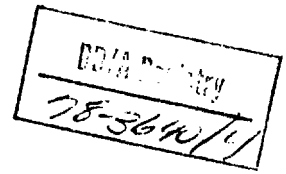
Your cooperation in these matters is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Stansfield Turner

STANSFIELD TURNER

28-21843



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Michael J. Malanick  
Associate Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Retention of Classification of  
Unevaluated Intelligence Reports

1. Action Requested: Attached for your signature is a letter to the U.S. Archivist, Dr. James Rhoads, replying to his implementation suggestion for protecting unevaluated intelligence reports (SO, SODB, DB, OO, and field intelligence reports) in the custody of the National Archives and Records Service.

2. Background: In your letter of 16 October 1978 to Dr. Rhoads you identified unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO, and field intelligence reports as requiring continued protection in the interest of national security. In his response of 3 November 1978, Dr. Rhoads suggests that continued protection begin with unevaluated intelligence reports of SSU, CIG, and CIA. COI and OSS reports (1941-1945) would continue to be systematically reviewed by CIA as at present, with those declassified placed in the public domain and those requiring continued protection listed annually for your certification. Dr. Rhoads' suggestion is positive and presents the opportunity for you to confirm continued protection under E.O. 12065, effective 1 December 1978, of unevaluated intelligence reports for SSU, CIG, and CIA in the custody of the National Archives and Records Service. (Your letter of 16 October 1978 applies only to 30 November 1978 when E.O. 11652 expires.)

The new E.O. 12065 requires that when an agency head extends classification beyond 20 years, or 30 years for foreign government information, a date no more than ten years later shall be set for declassification or for the next review unless a waiver for certain categories of information is requested from and granted by the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office. Pending the activation

of the Information Security Oversight Office and the time required for CIA to process a waiver to extend the period between reviews for certain categories of information, it is considered appropriate to request the Archivist to refrain from setting a next review date on unevaluated SO, SODB, DB, OO, and field intelligence reports except in those cases considered necessary.

3. Recommendation: That you sign the attached letter to the United States Archivist.

187 Michael J. Malanick

Michael J. Malanick

Attachment: a/s

Distribution:

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STAT  
Originated by:  C/CRG/ISAS:jkb (21 Nov. 78)